

THE TEMPLE MOUNT AND HEROD'S TEMPLE

The vast Temple Mount complex was dominated Jerusalem from every angle. Here is a view of the city with and the Temple. The southern steps to the Temple would be on the right below the roofs of the Royal Stoa.

Jerusalem and the Temple Mount ([View Larger](#))

In the view below, the southern steps are at the bottom of the illustration with the Temple Courts located in the middle of the huge platform.

The Temple Complex ([View Larger](#))

The illustration below looks more closely at the Temple Courts. The courts are surrounded by a low wall, the Soreq, that separated the area accessible to the Gentiles from the area accessible only by purified Jews. Signs along the Soreq cautioned that the penalty for improperly crossing into the Temple Courts could be death. Expand the drawing and see the note that shows the likely spot where the young Jesus sat with the elders to discuss Scripture.

The Temple Courts ([View Larger](#))

Finally, the view below shows a cutaway for the Temple itself. The Holy of Holies is separated from the rest of the Temple interior by a large and heavy hanging curtain. It is this curtain that was torn when Jesus died on the cross, symbolizing that the way into God's presence was now open to all.

Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. (Matthew 27:50-51).

Cutaway of Herod's Temple ([View Larger](#))